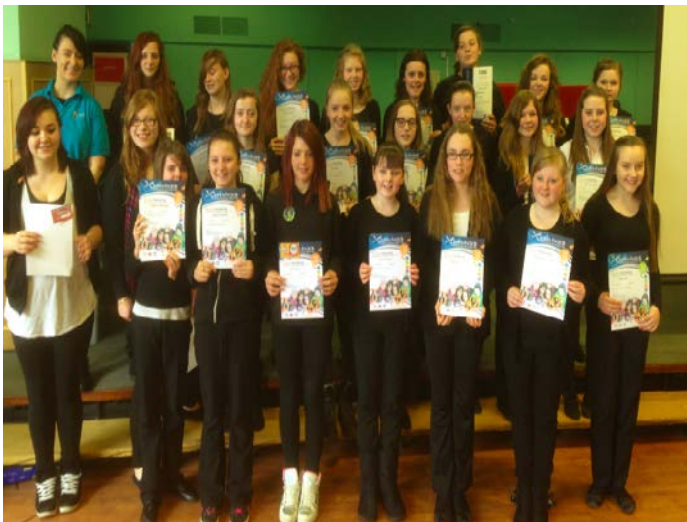


Youth Work in the WICK area

October 2015 – March 2016

The **BIG** headlines



Youth work is an **educational practice**

- It is an **empowering** process which is about
- Building self-esteem and self-confidence
- Developing the ability to manage personal and social relationships
- Creating opportunities for learning
- Building the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control
- Having a targeted approach within a range of services for everyone
- Having FUN



Key facts and stats

The Wick Youth Development team has worked with 128 individual youngsters aged between 11 and 25 amounting to 4,050 meaningful contacts

In total there were approximately 5,000 hours of engagement with young people, at 352 sessions.

Wick Youth Work covers the Wick High School catchment, which stretches from John O'Groats to Berriedale, and from Wick to Watten.

40 recognised awards were gained

THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

WICK YOUTH CLUB SENIORS

Wick Youth Club is an independent youth club with its own management committee. Many of the current committee are in their early twenties and joined the committee as participants of the seniors club. Seniors meet on a Wednesday night, from 8:30-10pm and the range of activities offered is vast, from sports to cooking, arts and crafts to technology. High Life Highland provide staffing for Seniors as an in-kind arrangement with Wick Youth Club.

JUNIOR WARDEN SCHEME

Nine pupils from Wick High School are currently participating in a 14 week programme covering many aspects of community services. This includes the role of HC community wardens, estate management, anti-social behaviour, a first aid qualification and gaining Saltire Awards. The project finale is on 3rd May, where the Junior Wardens will make a presentation to parents and learning partners about what they have learned. Further activities are being planned as a follow-up to this project.

ROCK CHALLENGE – THE CRIMSON WOOD

Wick Youth Development introduced Rock Challenge to the pupils of Wick High School in 2010, taking part in the first Highland Competition in 2011. Now in its sixth year, Team Wick is as enthusiastic about Rock Challenge as ever. 50 young people have been involved in the project which has run throughout the academic year, and 39 young people due to attend the competition at Eden Court Theatre on 19th April. Participants are given the opportunity to stage an 8 minute production on a theme of their choosing. The condition attached to participation is that all participants agree to abstain from smoking, alcohol and substance misuse. This year, Wick High will stage their production, *The Crimson Wood*; a twist on the well-known story *Little Red Riding Hood*.

- **Quote from a youngster**
“Rock Challenge really is absolutely amazing”
- **Quote from a partner**
“The Junior Warden Scheme is a really worthwhile project, we’re delighted to be able to support it and I’m personally really looking forward to the finale so I can see what else the wardens have been learning.”
- **Quote from a parent**
“There’s so much variety in the things the youth workers do; it’s really good for the youngsters.”



HOW'S THE FUTURE LOOKING?

➤ *Getting On* – achievements through learning

An Assistant Youth Worker has been working in Wick High School supporting pupils with emotional and behavioural needs as well as attendance issues as part of a six month project. The worker is engaging with young people to identify suitable learning paths to maximise achievement. Work is underway to source funding to continue the success of this into the next academic year, and develop the role to include further support for achievement frameworks.

➤ *Getting Heard* – confident voices, influencing decisions

We will work to develop a stronger Youth Forum that is more pro-active in the local community. The Forum is currently engaging with the new Reading Champion for the North to help influence the way that reading is promoted to young people in Caithness.

➤ *Getting Involved* – youth work: it's educational

With the opening of the new Wick Community Campus, we will look at adapting our services to the changing environment we are working in. Currently, a successful and popular lunch club is offered to pupils. We will work closely with Wick High School to identify how this may be adapted for the new campus.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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